

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 7 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, Fig. 7 and claims 1, 5 and 10-16 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Rogers during the telephone interview held April 28, 2010, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the drawings, asserting that Fig. 7 should be designated by a legend, such as --Prior Art--. Fig. 7 is amended to obviate the objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 5 and 10-16 are amended to obviate the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-2000-27310 to Kazunori in view of WO 03/089258 to Ogawa, WO 2003/0028915 to Panning, and optionally U.S. Patent No. 5,524,688 to Trares et al. (Trares), and U.S. Patent No. 522,814 to Welch. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, that the skim rubber is applied on the outer surface of the inner carcass ply by a spiral or helical winding of a rubber strip. This feature is described in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0027].

The Office Action asserts that Panning discloses a rubber layer between the two cord layers. However, as agreed during the telephone interview, none of the applied references discloses, or would have rendered obvious, the skim rubber is applied on the outer surface of the inner carcass ply by a spiral or helical winding of a rubber strip. Accordingly, the subject

matter of claim 1 would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of the applied references.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 would also not have been rendered obvious by the applied references at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kazunori, Ogawa, Panning, Trares and Welch, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,511,599 to Willard, U.S. Patent No. 5,361,820 to Adachi, and U.S. Patent No. 6,397,913 to Kanenari et al. (Kanenari). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Willard, Adachi and Kanenari do not overcome the deficiencies of Kazunori, Ogawa, Panning, Trares and Welch with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 5 and 10-16 would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of the applied references, at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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JAO:KXH/emd

Attachment:  
Replacement Sheet (Fig. 7)

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